

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10545 041752Z

71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1664

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10545

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, UR

SUBJ: ZORZA ARTICLE ON DEATH PENALTY.

REF: STATE 173699

WE HAVE NOW SEEN ZORZA ARTICLE MENTIONED REFTTEL. WE SHARE DEPARTMENT'S DOUBT THAT ANY DRAMATIC INCREASE HAS OCCURRED IN IMPOSITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR ECONOMIC CRIMES. MOST DEATH SENTENCES REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS ARE FOR OFFENSES INVOLVING COLLABORATION WITH GERMANS DURING WORLD WAR II. IN PAST FEW YEARS, EMBASSY HS NOTED OCCASIONAL ARTICLES IN REGIONAL PAPERS, ESPECIALLY FROM CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS, REPORTING CASES WHERE DEATH SENTENCES HAVE BEEN IMPOSED FOR ECONOMIC CRIMES. THESE CRIMES, AS REPORTED, USUALLY INVOLVED EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY, AND IMPOSITION OF DEATH PENALTY SEEMED DESIGNED TO SERVE AS LESSON FOR POLULACE THAT AUTHORITIES PREPARED TO DEAL SEVERELY WITH INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE THEIR HANDS IN THE PUBLIC TILL. THERE IS CERTAINLY NO RPT NO INDICATION THAT FREQUENCY OF DEATH SENTENCES FOR ECONOMIC CRIMES APPROACHING LEVEL OF EARLY 1960S.

DUBS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Remarks:
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